

THE STUDENT VOICE

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Dorm incident Raises issues

RA's perform search and seizure in Chandler Village

By Brian Boniface

For those of you who think that this is a movie review for some cheesy Keanu Reeves flick, guess again. This is an article about student rights violations here at WS. It has been brought to my attention that stu-

dent rights come second to the reputation of Residence Hall Staff. Now, a little background information about myself. I am a former resident assistant (RA) of Chandler Village. I have received the same training as any RA on campus including Edward McIvor (known on campus as Ted) and William Wadden (known on campus as Bill), the two RAs in question. Now, I am also a person who believes that one should take responsibility for their actions. This should include Housing Staff. In this article, to respect the privacy of the students involved, I will refer to them as Students 1, 2, and 3. Now the incident: On September 29th at approximately 11:30pm, the residents of

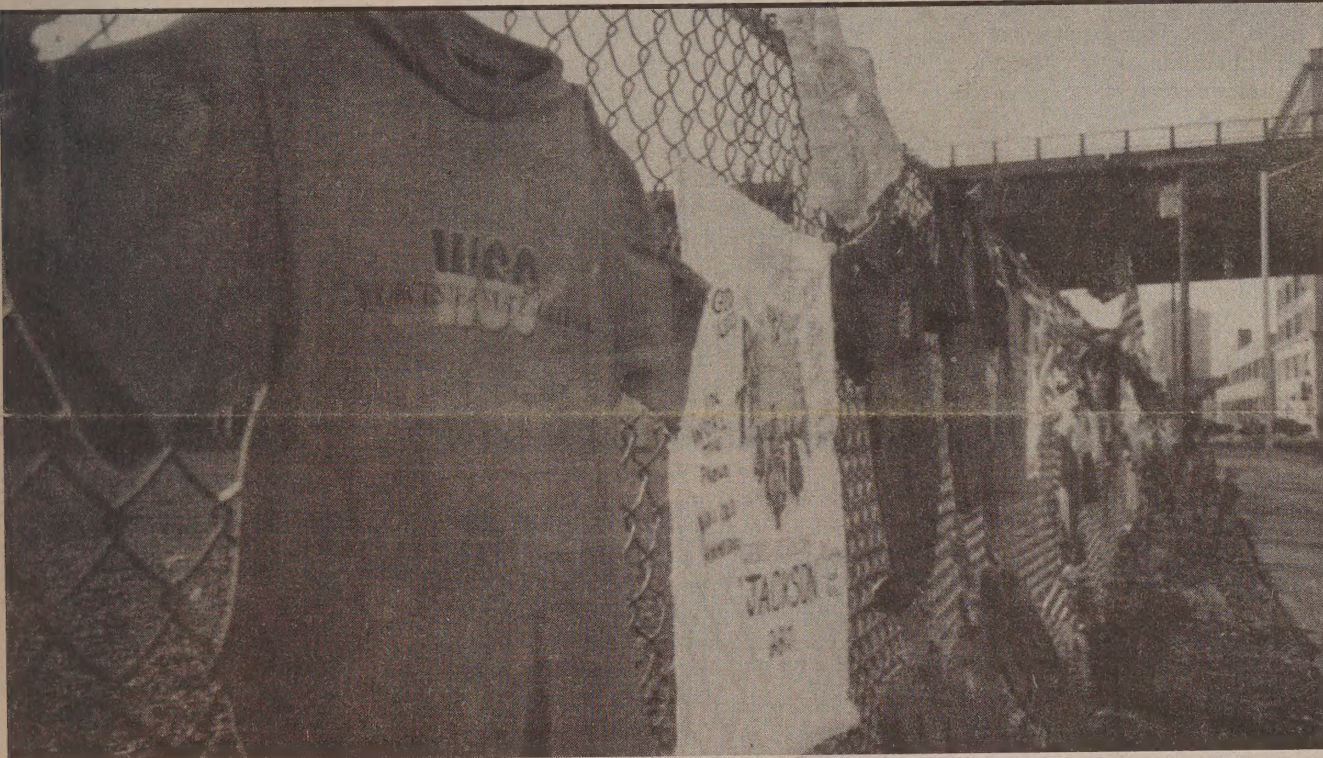
14-1 Chandler Village received a knock at the door. Student 1 answers the door and opens it not more than three inches and obstructs any view a person would have of the inside of 14-1. The RAs never identified themselves, only stated that they needed to come in. They didn't have any reason for coming in, i.e. no radio or television. Now come on, this is 2 hours after the fact.

Come Sunday afternoon, R.A.

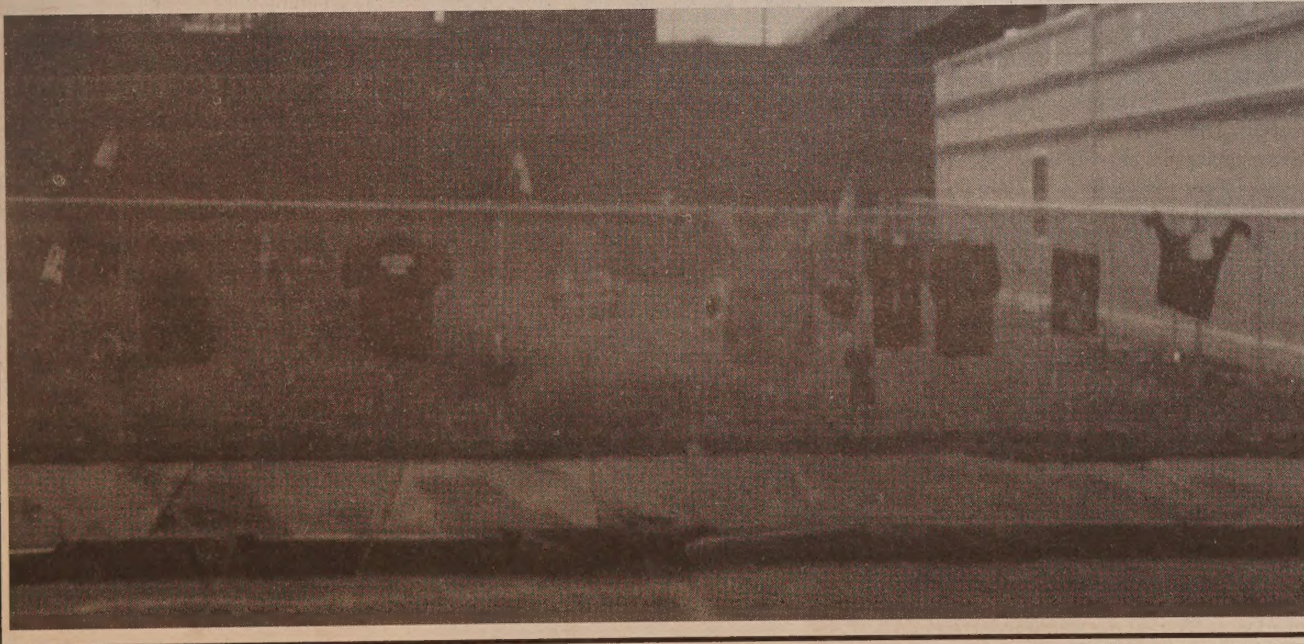
Ted goes to 14-1 to apologize to the residents. He sits down those involved and explains that he is sorry and that R.A. Bill made him do it. When the residents inquired as to the reason for coming into the house, he said that he didn't know. He

said that they had a noise complaint, yet there was never one reported to Campus Police. Now having a year of experience as an R.A., I know that this is very unprofessional. In fact, I know housing can not be happy about this. One of their RAs says that he knows what they did was wrong and is apologizing for it. If they are going to do something, they should at least have the guts to stand by their decisions. Doing this placed a burden upon the other R.A. who has no idea that Ted has done this. Students 1, 2, and 3 were now faced with a judicial hearing in front of John Fulmer. The meeting lasted for two and a half hours. Ted conveniently showed up forty

more RA issues, page 2



The Voice remembers our fallen heroes



Students become homeless

Raising awareness by sleeping outside

By Michael Ray
STUDENT VOICE STAFF

While most students on campus Friday night were relaxing, partying, or studying, a few brave souls slept outside. On the night of November 17th, MassPIRG and the Psychology club got together for a Sleep-Out to raise awareness for hunger and homelessness. Many passers by thought it was foolhardy for anyone to sleep outside in the harsh weather, but the point of the whole evening was to inform everyone that people actually do sleep out in the elements.

With the help of hot coffee and snacks, the briskness was bearable. Granted, most of the homeless don't have any of the luxuries that were appreciated by the students that stayed outside that night, but it was a sacrifice all the same. While all the students on campus were enjoying their warm houses and beds, the people that were raising awareness only had blankets to keep warm and slept on picnic tables. Later in the night, some rowdy students started to throw water balloons and food at the participants of the event. Though this was not appreciated, it does bring up the aspect that some people care very little for the welfare of others that are less fortunate than they are. On an additional note, the food was donated toward the campus food drive that was in progress.

Even though there was not a large turnout, the point was made all the same. With all the students walking by and asking what was going on proved that people will pay attention to the facts, but only if you put the issues in front of their faces.

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Final installment of teacher's contract disputes

THE STUDENT VOICE

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RA issues from Page 1

five minutes late. Not only that, the RAs changed their story about why they went to the house three different times. Their first excuse was that there was a noise complaint. One, it was half an hour before quiet hours, two, there were no documented noise complaints with Campus Police, and three, the way the building is structured, there is no way any of the other houses could've heard them. Also note that the television and radio were both off and there were only four people in the house. How much noise could they possibly make? When student 1 answered the door, he only opened it three inches and placed his body in front of the opening. Secondly, they changed their story by saying that they saw empty beer cans when they first knocked on the door. This was never mentioned in the incident report. There is no way they could have seen anything. Finally they change their story saying that Student 2 opened the door for them and let them in. Student 2 spoke up and said that that is absolutely not true. So finally, John Fulmer asked the RAs what they heard when they were standing outside of the house. The RAs did not comment, only looked at the floor and shook their head. I was also taught as a R.A., that whenever you encounter an incident while on duty, both RAs are supposed to fill out incident reports to validate what went

of their boss. These students understand that John Fulmer has a responsibility to support his staff members, but he has an even greater responsibility to the students' rights. These three students each received minimum sanctions because this was their first alcohol offense. These minimum sanctions include, 4 consecutive week-ends off campus, parent/guardian notification, substance abuse assessment, and 10 hours of community service. Now that seems pretty harsh for a first time offense.

To this day we have not received any word as to any punishment to the RAs who violated student rights. If you ask me, I think that this is a blatant disregard for student's rights and they shouldn't let them get away with it. Housing is responsible for the training and supervision of their staff members. These staff members who conduct themselves in an unprofessional manner and disregard the Fourth Amendment rights should be severely punished. Housing also picks and chooses which policies it will enforce and which it will turn a blind eye to. They also used the word "implied" a great deal saying that what isn't written in the handbook is implied. Does this make any sense at all? I didn't realize that every student is supposed to be aware of implied policies. One such implied policy is that you are required to hand over your student ID to a staff member when they ask for it. There is no mention in the WSC student handbook of this policy. When it was called to John Fulmer's attention, he said that it is implied. What else is implied? I would like to know. We students have a right to know what rights the RAs have. RAs should also be properly disciplined when they overstep their boundaries and trample Constitutional rights.

I want to make it clear that this article is in no way defending the actions of the students living in 14-1. They were in violation of alcohol policies. What this article is about is the abuse of power used by housing staff members. If this were a police matter and was brought before a court of law, it would be thrown out. No person, whether RA or police officer has the right to violate your Constitutional Rights.

Brian Boniface is not a member of The Voice staff. He is a student at WSC, and a former RA who was privy to the information as it came to pass. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of The Student Voice, but we felt you should be aware of the situation as it was.

Sincerely,
John Brown III
Editor-In-Chief

on. Only one R.A. filled out a report (Ted). Therefore, Bill has to go by everything. Ted says in his report at the judicial because how is a person supposed to remember every detail that happened 18 days ago. The three students focused on the violations of their student rights and put up a strong case. They even exposed the RAs lying in three different instances, and in front

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to comment on an article that appeared in the 11/14/00 edition of *The Voice*. Being a member of the Student Senate, I have the unique opportunity to hear the concerns of all students on campus, mainly my constituents.

As I am sure you imagined prior to publication, your article entitled "Up on the catwalk" is the buzz around campus. After hearing "lewd" "grotesque" and "demeaning" photographs in the latest issue of the school paper, I immediately found an issue and read your article.

At first glance, I was a bit taken aback by the photograph in question. I gave you the benefit of the doubt, John Brown, and continued with the article. The article was not only well written, but also quite informative. If the student body had bothered to finish the article, they would realize that you were doing the females on this campus a favor.

Bravo, John, you did an excellent job investigating, isolating, and proposing a solution to this problem. It is now up to Administration to adhere to your solution.

Rebecca M. Foley
Senate Parliamentarian
Resident Senator

Dear Editor,

I would like to congratulate John Brown III on using voyeurism to call attention to a serious issue on campus. Is he trying to provide students with information or working to encourage sexism on campus? On the subject of informing of this awkward situation I applaud you. However, the means used to fulfill this objective was in poor taste. The Editor in Chief used a marketing strategy that supports the objectification of women, even if that was not his purpose that was the result. This type of journalism is insulting to all of us at WSC. As an institution we should support our student paper but should we support one that insults women?

The type of photography used along with derogatory commentary undermines the recent improvement of the Student Voice. I was beginning to enjoy, once again, a paper that in the past had been plagued by poor writing and derogatory commentary.

WSC has been, in the not so distant past, addressing issues of sexual assault and sexism on campus. The two photos and commentary combine to create a dangerous climate for women at WSC. This type of journalism not only supports mentality that justifies sexual assault against women but also fosters it.

Joanne Diaz
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The Student Voice of Worcester State College

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The Student Voice welcomes letter, essays, and articles provided they are typed and are submitted with a name and means to contact the author. Any pieces that are deemed questionable are brought before the executive board. In the event of a tie the Editor-in-Chief has final decision. Letters run at the discretion of the Editor-In-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length. The Editor reserves the right to republish any works at their discretion.

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PHOTO ESSAY

Memorial

by

JOHN BROWN III

A year ago, on Dec. 3, the world came to a stop, at least here in Worcester. At 6:13 p.m., the Worcester Fire Department responded to an alarm on Franklin St. The Worcester Cold Storage Warehouse was on fire. The first crew to arrive included Paul Brotherton. How ironic is it that he was the last to leave the scene some eight days later?

How many of you know exactly where you were and what you were doing that day? I myself was meeting some friends in Northboro for dinner. When I arrived home on Vernon Hill I could see spotlights from helicopters at what I would later find out was the scene of this terrible event. I was unsure what the commotion was about so I attempted to go to sleep. The whine of the helicopters never disappeared that night making it difficult to sleep.

When I awoke unrested in the morning, the helicopters were still buzzing about. I made my way downtown which took about 30 minutes. This is a three-mile drive. Interstate 290 was closed in both directions from Hope Ave. (exit 10) to Rte. 190(exit19). The eastbound side would remain closed for over a week. The closing of this road crippled an already badly injured city. I was still trying to figure out what was going on when I hit the traffic outside Kelley Square, so I turned on the radio. What I heard next took my breath away. Six fire fighters were missing.

A makeshift memorial has been set up on the site where these men lost their lives in a fire that never should have happened, in a building not one of the men should have entered. The men entered the building believing that there were two homeless people inside. There were no people inside but under their standing operating procedure they would have entered anyway. Paul Brotherton, Jeremiah Lucey, Joseph McGuirk, Thomas Spencer, James Lyons, and Timothy Jackson were among the many firefighters who entered that building that night, and they were the six who remained long after the fire had stopped burning. These men were brothers, fathers and sons, to all who knew them.

Many have visited the site of the now demolished building, and each has said their own prayer of thanks to these men. All firefighters know that their next alarm could also be their last, yet they continue to do the job, day in and day out, regarding the safety of others and their fellow "brothers" over their own safety.

The families of these men continue to grieve. Though most have been taken care of financially, the children and the wives now have an emotional void that will last a lifetime. Friends and relatives will help ease the pain, but I am sure that every Dec. 3, each family will find its own way of coping with the loss of a loved one.

If you gave thanks this past Thursday, then take a moment this coming Sunday at 6:13 p.m. and give a moment to those six who lost their lives so tragically in the line of duty.

Be thankful for all that you still have and let the little things pass by that day without a mention. Take a moment and tell someone you care about them. Give a friend that you may see everyday or one you do not see that often a hug or a word of encouragement. Maybe by doing so you will make the day not only go smoother for yourself, but in some way your thoughts will help those families of the Fallen Heroes day go a little bit smoother as well.

*Photographs by
Fred Hurlbrink, Jr.*

The WORCESTER Firefighter TRAGEDY *One year later*

Lt. Thomas Spencer

Paul Brotherton

Timothy Jackson

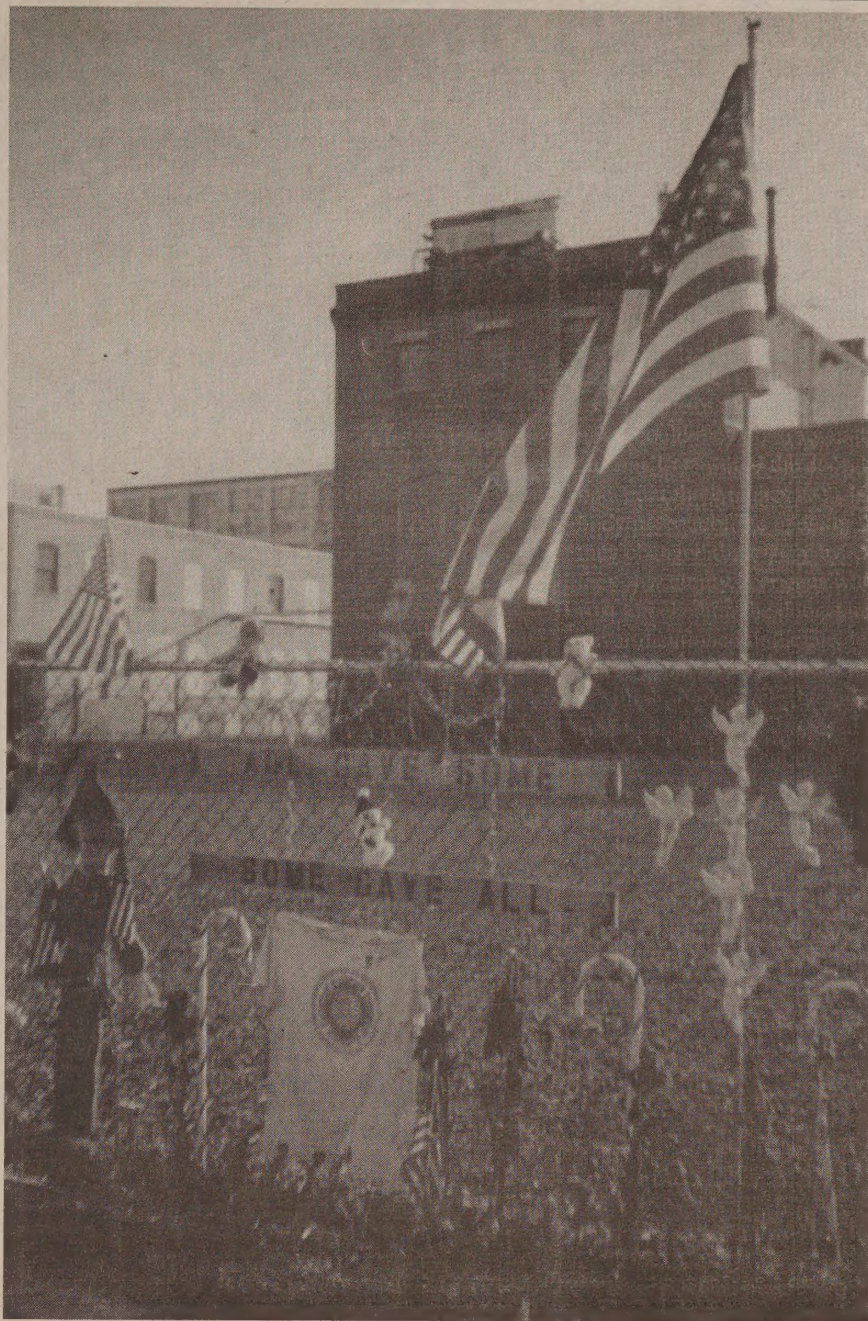
Jeremiah Lucey

James Lyons

Joseph McGuirk

Fireman's Prayer

When I'm called to duty god wherever flames may rage
Give me strength to save a life whatever be its age
Help me to embrace a little child before its too late
Or save an older person from the horror of that fate
Enable me to be alert to hear the weakest shout
And quickly and efficiently to put the fire out
I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me
To guard my neighbor and protect his property
And if according to your will I have to lose my life
Bless wit your protecting hand my children and my wife



Multicultural Affairs

Take a trip around the world in SC

By Gizel Hampton
STUDENT VOICE STAFF

Put your books away and get ready for a trip around the world!

Music. Fashion. Entertainment. History. Food. Lots of food and fun! That's what you will receive and much more at Worcester State's very own Multicultural Festival. The festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. today in the Student Center.

Some of the countries that will be represented include India, South America, Africa and the Caribbean. If you have been to past festivals, this year will be one like no other.

Where else can you find a festival that is free, educational and fun all at the same time? This is one event you don't want to miss.

Come visit some of the world's most exquisite treasures as you indulge yourself in the heart of every country. With entertainment provided by various stomp teams and the top hits from around the world you will find yourself country-hopping.

Experience the magic of the continents and islands as your eyes marvel at the sight of the beautiful native attire worn by the men and women modeling in the fashion show. Enhance your knowledge as you journey through the unique historical culture of every represented country.

Then, let your senses savor the tantalizing aromas of exotic foods, as your taste buds sweep you away to your favorite hideaway.

The International Student Union, Third World Alliance and the International Students Program office are co-sponsoring this event. If you would like to lend a hand, contact anyone of the organizations and join the fun as you journey around the world.



Free Admittance

Co-sponsored by the International programs offices

Student organizations collaborate for collection

Donations generous, but fall far short of last year's totals

By Jackie Donovan
STUDENT VOICE STAFF

The Third World Alliance (TWA) office is littered with piles of garbage bags filled with donations for the recent Hunger and Homeless Week Food and Clothing Drive, proving the effort was a success.

This collection, cosponsored by the Commuter Advisory Board (CAB), MassPirg, the Newman Association, and TWA, was held between November 13 through the 20, a time known as Hunger and Homeless Week.

It was an effort to reach out and help the Worcester area needy, and many students and faculty of Worcester State College, participated.

The cosponsoring organizations asked for any members of the college community to donate dry food, canned goods, or clothing for this cause, and the outcome is that ten bags of clothing and over one hundred food items were gathered.

Donation boxes were placed at various locations on campus including the

first and second floors of the Sullivan building, the Administration building, the Science and Technology Building, the Student Center Information Desk, Dowden Hall Laundry Room, the Gym Building, Chandler Village Laundry Room, and in the Student Center Organization Wing.

An incentive to gather more donations this year was suggested and offered by CAB, but was not widely used by students. It was proposed that if a student brought his/her donations to the Student Center Living Room, they would receive a free half an hour of pool for every two items donated.

Although this year proved to be a very generous year for the Worcester State Community, it doesn't exactly match the tremendous outpouring of generosity shown last year. Last year's Hunger and Homeless Week gathered 25 bags of clothing and over 300 items of food.

TWA president, Jenn-E believes that the problem is the new no flyer-ing policy established recently which doesn't give organizations the opportunity they once

had to advertise.

"The advertising is limited. The word can't be as available to students as much as it was," she said.

Clothing donations from the drive will be going to the Abbey House as well as AIDS Project Worcester, both organizations in need of these contributions.

The food item donations were split a variety of ways, Newman gave some to the Friendly House, to be used to make Thanksgiving baskets.

The rest of the food was given by TWA to AIDS Project Worcester and El Bueno Samaritano (The Good Samaritan) to be used in making over 500 baskets for the Worcester community.

"I feel the campus was generous and compassionate," said Jenn-E, who laughed when she went into the TWA office the last day of the drive. "I felt like I was in my bedroom, there were clothes everywhere."

She continued by offering a sincere thank you to all those who helped

"I feel the campus was generous and compassionate... The organizations involved would like to give a word of thanks to the campus as a whole, for all those heartwarming donations made."

JENN-E, TWA PRESIDENT

out and gave to the cause.

"The organizations involved would like to give a word of thanks to the campus as a whole, for all those heartwarming donations made. Thank you for the generous gifts made for Hunger and Homeless Week," she said.

If there are any students who have clothing and/or food that they would like to give away at the end of the semester, please call the TWA office at 929-8565, or email Jenn-E at jmemnon@worchester.edu.